

Message Text

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C - MR. MONTGOMERY

M - MR. EGAN

S/S - MR. HOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 096379

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTESTS WASHINGTON POST
EDITORIAL

1. SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR KAMENEV CALLED ON
EUR/SOV ACTING DIRECTOR BARRY APRIL 20 TO PROTEST
APRIL 17 WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DIPLOMATIC
HOSTAGES AND DETENTE" (FULL TEXT BY SEPTTEL). HE
ASKED FOR DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON EDITORIAL, WHICH
CONDEMNS BOTH "ORGANIZED HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS
IN MOSCOW" AND "CRIMINAL TERROR TACTICS" AGAINST SOVIETS
IN NEW YORK.

2. IN PARTICULAR, KAMENEV ASKED DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON
ONE SENTENCE IN EDITORIAL WHICH READS "OTHER, LEGAL
FORMS OF RECIPROCAL TREATMENT--SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL BY
AMERICANS FROM ALL BUT THE MOST FORMAL ESSENTIAL CONTACTS
WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS--WOULD BE MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE."
PRECEDING SENTENCES, WHICH KAMENEV SKIPPED OVER, READ

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"A MONTH AGO, IN REGARD TO COMPLAINTS OF AMERICANS

(IN MOSCOW) THAT THEY WERE BEING EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS RADIATION FROM SOVIET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, THE QUESTION WAS RAISED WHETHER US OUGHT TO GIVE SOVIET

DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON A SIMILAR DOSE. THE ANSWER, QUITE PROPERLY, WAS NO."

3. IN RESPONDING BARRY NOTED THAT AS EXPERIENCED OBSERVER OF WASHINGTON SCENE KAMENEV WAS AWARE THAT EDITORIAL PAGE OF WASHINGTON POST DID NOT REFLECT VIEWS OF USG. AS TO ACTS AGAINST SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK, PRESIDENT FORD'S APRIL 2 STATEMENT REPRESENTS CLEARST POSSIBLE STATEMENT OF US POSITION. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON HARASSMENT OF US DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW ARE ALSO CLEAR TO MFA FROM THE MANY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY EMBASSY MOSCOW IN RECENT WEEKS. AS TO SENTENCE KAMENEV PARTICULARLY ASKED FOR COMMENT ON, IT APPEARED TO RELATE SPECIFICALLY TO PROBLEM OF MICROWAVE RADIATION AT OUR MOSCOW EMBASSY WHICH IS UNDER DISCUSSION IN OTHER CHANNELS AND THUS INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT UPON.

4. KAMENEV RESPONDED THAT HE HAD HOPED THAT DEPT. WOULD DISAVOW TO SOVIET EMBASSY AND WP THAT PORTION OF EDITORIAL ADVOCATING ELIMINATION OF ALL BUT NECESSARY DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS SINCE SUCH A COURSE WOULD DAMAGE BOTH US AND SOVIET INTERESTS. BARRY RESPONDED THAT HE COULD REASSURE KAMENEV THAT AS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS SAID SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY 3 SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH REMAINS AUTHORITATIVE TREATMENT OF US VIEWS ON RELATIONS WITH USSR, BUT SINCE PASSAGE IN EDITORIAL KAMENEV PARTICULARLY WANTED COMMENT ON RELATED TO MICROWAVE RADIATION PROBLEM HE COULD NOT EXPRESS ANY OFFICIAL VIEW. AS FOR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS TO WP, KAMENEV SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE OR EFFECTIVE.

5. KAMENEV CLOSED SUBJECT BY EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT SOVIET PRESS WOULD PROBABLY FEEL OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO WP EDITORIAL. KISSINGER

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